

Message Text

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AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 209876

EXDIS FOR THE CHARGE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PDEV, SF, WA, AO

SUBJECT: NAMIBIA: BILATERAL APPROACH TO ANGOLANS

1. WE WISH TO USE OCCASION OF PRESIDENT NETO'S AUGUST 19
VISIT TO KINSHASA TO EMPHASIZE TO THE ANGOLANS OUR CONCERN
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PAGE 02 STATE 209876

OVER THE RISING LEVEL OF VIOLENCE NOTED RECENTLY IN THE
ANGOLA/NAMIBIA BORDER AREA AND OUR HOPE THAT ANGOLA
WILL BE WILLING TO USE ITS INFLUENCE TO URGE SWAPO TO
REFRAIN FROM VIOLENT ACTIVITIES IN NAMIBIA.

2. ACCORDINGLY, YOU SHOULD MAKE THE POINTS BELOW TO
AN APPROPRIATE ANGOLAN OFFICIAL DURING NETO'S VISIT.

IN DOING SO, YOU SHOULD INDICATE OUR DESIRE THAT THEY
BE BROUGHT TO NETO'S ATTENTION.

3. POINTS TO BE MADE TO THE ANGOLANS ON NAMIBIA:

-- WITH UN SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE AHTISAARI AND
HIS TEAM NOW IN NAMIBIA, THE FIRST CONCRETE STEPS IN
THE TRANSITION PROCESS HAVE BEGUN. THE INITIAL INDICA-
TIONS WE HAVE RECEIVED HAVE BEEN ENCOURAGING;

-- AT THE SAME TIME, WE ARE DEEPLY CONCERNED BY REPORTS
IN RECENT DAYS OF A GROWING NUMBER OF VIOLENT INCIDENTS
IN NORTHERN NAMIBIA;

-- FRANKLY, WE FEAR THAT UNLESS SOUTH AFRICA AND SWAPO
CAN BE PREVAILED ON TO REFRAIN FROM SUCH ACTIVITIES
A RAPID ESCALATION IN THE LEVEL OF VIOLENCE COULD
TAKE PLACE WITH TRAGIC RESULTS. THE EXAMPLE OF CASSINGA
REMAINS FRESH IN OUR MINDS;

-- INCREASED VIOLENCE IN A VERY REAL SENSE JEOPARDIZES
THE ENTIRE FRAGILE STRUCTURE OF FUTURE PEACE AND INDE-
PENDENCE FOR NAMIBIA TO WHICH ANGOLA HAS ALREADY CONTRI-
BUTED SO MUCH;

--BECAUSE OF THEIR CONTINUING SENSE OF RESPONSIBILITY
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PAGE 03 STATE 209876

FOR NAMIBIA'S FUTURE, THE MEMBERS OF THE WESTERN
CONTACT GROUP ARE IN THE PROCESS OF CONTACTING SWAPO,
SOUTH AFRICA AND THE FRONTLINE STATES TO URGE RESTRAINT
DURING THIS SENSITIVE AND CRITICAL PERIOD;

-- KNOWING ANGOLA'S STRONG DESIRE FOR A PROMPT, FAIR,
AND PEACEFUL TRANSITION TO INDEPENDENCE FOR NAMIBIA,
THE UNITED STATES WISHES TO URGE THAT YOU USE YOUR COUNSEL
AND INFLUENCE WITH SWAPO TO HELP ENSURE THAT THE UNITED
NATIONS EFFORT MAY GO FORWARD, UNTRoubLED BY VIOLENCE;

-- IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT NAMIBIA'S NEIGHBORS COOPERATE
FULLY WITH THE UN IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SETTLE-
MENT. IN THIS REGARD, WE HOPE THAT ANGOLA WOULD CONSIDER
WHAT ARRANGEMENTS MIGHT BE MADE TO FACILITATE THE
TAKING HOLD OF THE CEASEFIRE, ONCE IT IS DECLARED,
AND TO ENABLE THE UN TO MONITOR IT EFFECTIVELY.

4. YOU SHOULD ALSO MAKE THE FOLLOWING ADDITIONAL
POINT, NOT RELATED TO NAMIBIA, TO THE ANGOLANS:

-- WE ARE IMPRESSED WITH THE SPEED WITH WHICH ANGOLA

AND ZAIRE HAVE MOVED TOWARD REDUCTION OF TENSIONS.
WE HOPE THIS PROCESS WILL CONTINUE, AND WE STAND READY
TO ASSIST IN ANY WAY APPROPRIATE. VANCE

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